

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COPENH 07260 071758Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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CONFIDENTIAL COPENHAGEN 7260

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: CANDIDATES FOR POST IN UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

REF : COPENHAGEN 7153

1. SINCE I HAD HEARD THAT SELECTION OF UNHCR WAS COMING TO VOTE TOWARD END OF THIS WEEK, I OBTAINED AN APPOINTMENT WITH POUL HARTLING LATE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 7 AT HIS FOLKETING OFFICE. I EMPHASIZED AGAIN IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THAT IT WAS IN HIS OWN INTEREST TO MAINTAIN A U.S. DEPUTY IF HARTLING WERE SELECTED FOR THE UNHCR POSITION.

2. HARTLING FIRST THANKED ME FOR THE LETTER I HAD SENT HIM IN WHICH I HAD OUTLINED U.S. REASONING FOR MAINTAINING AMERICAN AS HIS DEPUTY (REFTEL). HE THEN SAID HE HAD PURPOSELY REMAINED PUBLICLY SILENT ON THE QUESTION OF A DEPUTY BECAUSE ANYTHING HE WOULD SAY WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO RESIST PRESSURES BY THE THIRD WORLD TO SELECT ONE OF THEIR CANDIDATES AS HIS DEPUTY. DESPITE URGING BY DANISH AMBASSADOR TO UN TO COME TO NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY AFTER VOTE IS TAKEN, HARTLING PLANS TO PROCEED TO NEW YORK ONLY ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14.

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3. HARTLING ASSURED ME THAT HE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING U.S. DEPUTY, BOTH FOR PURPOSE OF FUND RAISING AND MANAGERIAL REASONS. HE THOUGHT THAT THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING THIS RESULT WAS FOR HIM TO ASK THE INCUMBENT (MACE) TO REMAIN IN THIS POSITION UNTIL SOMETIME IN MARCH. THIS WOULD PERMIT HIM TO RESIST PRESSURES BY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO MAKE A DEAL. AS AN EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN HARTLING SAID HE

THOUGHT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR HIM TO DO WAS TO GAIN TIME. HE COULD USE THE FACT THAT HE WAS A "NEW BOY ON THE BEAT" TO REQUEST THAT THE AMERICAN DEPUTY REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL HE HAD A CHANCE TO SIZE UP THE SITUATION HIMSELF. ALSO, IN THE EVENT HARTLING WAS SELECTED FOR THE UNCHR POSITION, HE WOULD MAKE IT A POINT TO MAKE HIS FIRST CALL IN WASHINGTON, WHERE HE WOULD TALK OVER PLANS DIRECTLY WITH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES.

4. HARTLING SAID THAT HE WAS THINKING OF GIVING THE NUMBER 3 SLOT A PRESTIGIOUS TITLE, BUT IN THE MEANTIME HE WOULD ALSO PLAN TO KEEP IT VACANT UNTIL MID-MARCH WHEN HE FEELS HE WOULD BE IN BEST POSITION TO DETERMINE OVERALL STAFFING REQUIREMENTS.

5. I AM STILL PLANNING TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HARTLING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 (REFTEL) AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO CONVEY ANY THOUGHTS THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE AT THAT TIME.

DEAN

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